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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

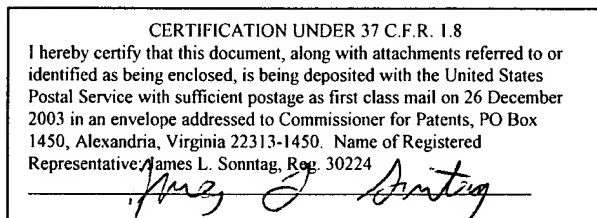
United States Patent Application

To: Commissioner for Patents  
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Application Number: ..... 09/830399  
Confirmation Number: ..... 7802  
Filing Date: ..... August 13, 2001  
Applicant(s): ..... VIRKAR, Anil Vasudeo;  
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Group Art Unit: ..... 1754  
Examiner: ..... BOS, Steven J.  
Attorney's Docket Number: ..... U2726US  
Title: ... "A MOLECULAR DECOMPOSITION

PROCESS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF  
NANOSIZE CERAMIC POWDERS"



**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

**Introductory Comments**

This is in response to the office action mailed August 26, 2003. A shortened statutory period for response was set to expire three months from the mailing date of the office action. Enclosed herewith is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a). Claims 1-25 are pending in the application before this amendment. Claims 2, 4-7, 10-13 and 21-25 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1,3,8 and 14 and have been rejected. Claims 9 and 15-20 have been objected to.

Please amend the application as set forth below: